

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09639 101215Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 EA-06 FAA-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2096

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E.O. 1&652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, AS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR US-REGISTRY AIRCRAFT

REF: CANBERRA 4476

1. IN EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE ONLY RPT ONLY PRIVATE FLIGHTS TO OR THROUGH USSR PERMITTED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN TO BRING US BUSINESSMEN TO MOSCOW FOR TRADE DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS. PLEASURE FLIGHTS HAVE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, BEEN REFUSED. FLIGHTS OF UNUSUAL NATURE OR TRAVERSING SENSITIVE TERRITORY ARE TURNED DOWN ALMOST PREEMPTORILY, APPARENTLY WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS CONSIDERATION HAVING BEEN GIVEN BY FOREIGN MINISTRY AND OTHER INTERESTED SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS. MOST RECENT REJECTION IN THIS CATEGORY INVOLVED AMERICAN WHO WISHED TO FLY HELICOPTER ACROSS USSR AS PART OF ROUND-THE-WORLD FLIGHT COMMEMORATING US BICENTENNIAL.

2. ACCORDINGLY, INTENDED FLIGHT FROM TOKYO TO ALASKA VIA STOP AT PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKIY MENTIONED IN REFTTEL IS PRIME CANDIDATE FOR IMMEDIATE REJECTION BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES, BOTH FROM STAND-POINT OF PURPOSE OF FLIGHT AS WELL AS PROTION OF SOVIET TERRITORY TO BE CROSSED.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 09639 101215Z

3. IN GENERAL, EMBASSY SEES LITTLE PURPOSE IN ENDORSING SUCH

QUESTIONABLE PROPOSALS AS THIS ONE BY FORMAL APPROACH TO MFA.
AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, SECURING PERMISSION FOR PRIVATE FLIGHTS
TO USSR INVOLVES SUBMISSION DIPLOMATIC NOTE BY EMBASSY, WHICH IN
SOVIET EYES TENDS TO SERVE AS IPSO FACTO GUARANTEE BY USG OF
BONA FIDES OF FLIGHT.
BREMENT

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Message Attributes

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